

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 USSS-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 DRC-01 MC-02 /168 W

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R 161508Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0649

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1332

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO M.E. SITUATION

1. 2300 HRS ARAB LANGUAGE NEWS ON OCT 15 CARRIED BRIEF STORY ON THE PRESIDENT'S OCT 15 REMARKS HEADLINED "AMERICAN PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES THAT U.S. MIGHT INTERVENE MILITARILY TO PROTECT THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL." THE STORY REPORTED PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON SIMILARITY BETWEEN USG POSITION IN 1973 AND THAT ADOPTED IN LEBANON IN 1958 AND JORDAN IN 1970. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE STORY CONCENTRATED MORE ON THE LANDING OF MARINES IN LEBANON THAN IT DID ON THE CONSISTENCY OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF MIDDLE EASTERN STATES, BOTH ARAB AND ISRAELI. OFFICIAL FAJIR AL-JADID ON OCT 16 HAD FRONT-PAGE, BUT NOT PROMINENT, ARTICLE HEADLINED "NIXON ANNOUNCES PROBABILITY OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION ON THE SIDE OF THE ENEMY." PIECE WAS SUB-HEADLINED "AMERICANS CONFIRM CONTINUED FLOW OF ARMS TO THE ENEMY."

2. BOTH RADIO AND NEWSPAPER STORIES SURPRISINGLY LOW KEY. THEY INCLUDED STRAIGHT REPLAY OF WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT TRANSITING THE AZORES
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EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL. FAJIR AL-JADID REPORTED THAT

AMERICAN OFFICIALS LINKED THE U.S. RESUPPLY DECISION WITH THE SOVIET "BUILDING OF AN AIR BRIDGE" IN ORDER TO SUPPLY ARAB BELLIGERENTS.

3. STRONGEST ANTI-AMERICAN PEIECE IN FAJIR AL-JADID WAS INSIDE PAGE 3 ARTICLE ON "DAMASCUS IS STEADFAST." THE SERIAL NUMBER PLATE FROM AN ISRAELI PHANTOM WAS DISPLAYED WITH UNITED STATES NAVY MARKINGS AND THE LEGEND "MANUFACTURED BY AMERICAN ELECTRIC INC., LA MIRADA, CALIFORNIA, U.S. PROPERTY." THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS CAPTIONED "THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE CRIME, AMERICA".

4. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LOCAL (PALESTINIAN) MAN-ON-THE-STREET REACTION ALSO NOT YET EMOTIONALLY ANTI-AMERICAN. IN FACT, LACK OF STRONG OFFICIAL REACTION TO ARMS SUPPLY ANNOUNCEMENTS HAS BEEN ADDED TO LIST OF ARGUMENTS USED BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE QADHAFI IS AN AMERICAN AGENT.
JOSIF

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